

GERMANS SHIFT ATTACK TO SOUTHEAST OF VERDUN; MAY TRY TO TURN BIG FORTRESS

Frontal Movement Failing Invaders Seem to Re- peat Marne Tactics.

**DRIVE TO THE WEST
GETS ONE MILE GAIN**

Teutons Report Capture of

More Than 1,000 Prisoners in Champagne.

DOUAUMONT CENTRE OF RING OF BATTLES

Villages See Hand to Hand Fighting—Thrust From Lorraine Expected.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN
LONDON, Feb. 28.—The latest report from the Verdun district, where the great battle has been raging for a week, indicate that the German attack has

shifted to the east and southeast of the French fortress.

Heavy artillery fighting continues on the east bank of the Meuse, where, according to the German statement to-day, the French forces have been driven back.

the French forces have been driven entirely out of the Meuse peninsula formed by a loop in the river just north of the Verdun forts. West of the Meuse the enemy's bombardment has decreased in intensity, while along the railway running north from the river and the Meuse

Some thirty miles west of Verdun, the Champagne district, the Germans b

gan an attack last night which gained for them a mile of French front north of Souain and about 1,000 prisoners. The offensive in this region, when considered in conjunction with the heavy German attacks east of Verdun, seems to indicate

cate that Count von Haeseler has given up a frontal attack on the Verdun fortress and, instead, is endeavoring to break the French line both east and west of in order to turn the position.

This is the same plan precisely as used by the Germans in their advance on Paris before the battle of the Marne at which did not then succeed, particularly because of the strong French stand on the heights east of the Meuse, known as the Argonne.

The situation at Fort Donnauville, which has been obscure owing to conflicting statements from Berlin a Paris, is made clear by the French afternoon communiqué, which says that the fort is closely encircled, meaning that it is held by the Germans. The village

Document, however, which lies north of the fort, is in the hands of the French and this indicates that the German troops who stormed the fort are completely surrounded. The French communiqué this afternoon says that the Germans made several unsuccessful

West of Bonamont the Germans are making port progress in the direction of the towns of Vacherauville and Bras. The villages lie south of the Cote de Poivre which is held by the French. In the neighborhood the French War Office

the night, and of severe hand to hand fighting, with the repulse of a small force of the enemy who had succeeded in gaining a foothold in a redoubt.

Much interest here attaches to a statement from Paris that the Germans made attacks in force at three points on the railway crossing from the north.

the railway running from north to south about five miles east of Verdun. At a point, the little town of Eix, which lay at the foot of the Cotes Lorraines, the Germans succeeded in capturing the railway station after very severe fighting, only to lose it again last night. Two other attempts to cut this line were made.

Preparing New Attack.
Indications that the Germans are

parade for another attack from the east. The French are seen in to-night's report from Paris, which says that the French artillery has been very active in the Lorraine district. This district lies directly south of Woëvre, and intermittent fighting between outposts has been going on there for some months.

The night communiqué issued by the French War Office follows:

In the Argonne our batteries of heavy artillery and field guns directed their fire against the supply roads used by the enemy, particularly in the region of the Bois de Chaux. The

mine and occupied the excavation formed by the explosion.

In the region north of Verdun the activity of the artillery of both sides is still very marked except in the sector west of the Meuse, where

slight decrease in the enemy's bombardment is reported. The Germans during the day attempted several partial attacks, which were repulsed by our fire and by our counter attack. West of the Fort Donnaymont, particularly, our troops engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with the enemy.

In Woevere two attacks on French positions failed completely.

Pierce Fighting at Donauwörth
The French afternoon communication was as follows:

opposite Steenstraete,
In Champagne, in the region of t